



How to
behave
when you
see a "lora"

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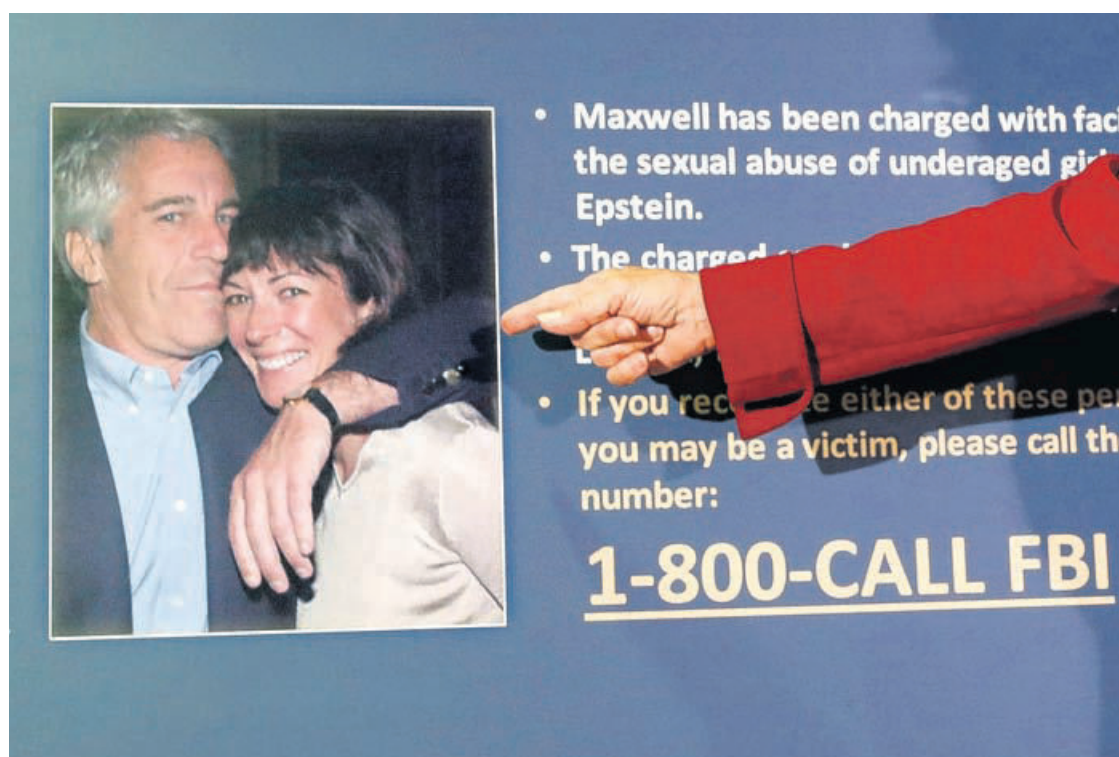


Justice Department can unseal Ghislaine Maxwell sex trafficking case records, judge says

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday granted the Justice Department's request to publicly release grand jury transcripts and other material from Ghislaine Maxwell's sex trafficking case, citing a new law that requires the government to open its files on Jeffrey Epstein and his longtime confidant, but he cautioned that people shouldn't expect to learn much new information from them.

Judge Paul A. Engelmayer, who along with other judges had previously rejected Justice Department unsealing requests before the transparency law was passed, said the materials "do not identify any person other than Epstein and Maxwell as having had sexual contact with a minor." "They do not discuss or identify any client of Epstein's or Maxwell's," Engelmayer wrote. "They do not reveal any heretofore unknown means or methods of Epstein's or Maxwell's crimes." Engelmayer, in Manhattan, ruled Tuesday after the



Audrey Strauss, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, speaks during a news conference to announce charges against Ghislaine Maxwell for her alleged role in the sexual exploitation and abuse of multiple minor girls by Jeffrey Epstein, July 2, 2020, in New York. Associated Press

Justice Department had asked judges in the wake of the law's passage last month to lift secrecy orders in Maxwell's and Epstein's cases that had kept some records under wraps. A request to unseal records from Epstein's 2019 sex trafficking case is pending.

Engelmayer is the second

judge to act after the Epstein Files Transparency Act created a narrow exception to rules that normally keep grand jury proceedings secret. Last week, a Florida federal judge ordered the release of transcripts from an abandoned Epstein federal grand jury investigation in the 2000s.

The law, signed by President Donald Trump after months of public and political pressure, requires the Justice Department to provide the public with Epstein-related records by Dec. 19.

The fate of the government's Epstein files has dominated the first year of Trump's second term

in office. The Republican campaigned for reelection last year on a promise to release the files, and his administration did disclose some records earlier this year almost all of them already public but suddenly stopped in July after promising a "truckload" more. Forced to act by the new transparency law, the Justice Department says it plans to release 18 categories of investigative materials gathered in the massive sex trafficking probe, including search warrants, financial records, notes from interviews with victims, and data from electronic devices.

Epstein, a millionaire financier, was arrested in July 2019 on sex trafficking charges and killed himself in jail a month later. Maxwell, a British socialite, was convicted of sex trafficking in December 2021. She is serving a 20-year prison sentence. After giving an interview to the Justice Department's second-in-command in July, she was moved from a federal prison in Florida to a prison camp in Texas. □

About 400 immigrant children were detained longer than the recommended limit, ICE admits

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ**
Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Hundreds of immigrant children across the nation were detained for longer than the legal limit this summer, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has admitted in a court filing, alarming legal advocates who say the government is failing to safeguard children.

In a court filing Monday evening, attorneys for detainees highlighted the government's own admissions to longer custody times for immigrant children, unsanitary conditions reported by families and monitors at federal facilities, and a renewed reliance on hotels for detention.

The reports were filed as part of an ongoing civil lawsuit launched in 1985 that led to the creation of the 1990s cornerstone policy known as the Flores Set-

tlement Agreement, which limits the time children can spend in federal custody and requires them to be kept in safe and sanitary conditions. The Trump ad-

ministration is attempting to end the agreement.

A Dec. 1 report from ICE indicated that about 400 immigrant children were held in custody for more than the 20-day limit during the reporting period from August to September. They also told the court the problem was widespread and not specific to a region or facility. The primary factors that prolonged their release were categorized into three groups: transportation delays, medical needs, and legal processing.

Legal advocates for the children contended those reasons do not prove lawful justifications for the delays in their release. They also cited examples that far exceeded the 20-day

limit, including five children who were held for 168 days earlier this year. ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Hotel use for temporary detention is allowed by the federal court for up to 72 hours, but attorneys questioned the government's data, which they believe did not fully explain why children were held longer than three days in hotel rooms.

Conditions at the detention facilities continued to be an ongoing concern since the family detention site in Dilley, Texas, reopened this year.

Advocates documented injuries suffered by children and a lack of access to sufficient medical care. □



Unaccompanied migrant children watch television from inside a playpen at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, the main detention center for unaccompanied children, March 30, 2021, in Donna, Texas. Associated Press

Associated Press

Affordable Care Act enrollment is slightly ahead of last year so far, despite expiring subsidies

By ALI SWENSON and
NICKY FORSTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of Americans signing up for Affordable Care Act health insurance for 2026 is moderately higher than it was at a similar time last year, initial new federal data shows, even as subsidies set to expire at the end of 2025 will make the coverage more expensive for many.

Seen at face value, the data from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services seems to defy predictions that many Americans facing pricier plans would drop out of marketplace coverage altogether next year. But experts caution that the numbers are an incomplete snapshot of total enrollment, which could still show a decline by the end of the open enrollment period.

"Overall, it's just too early to know what any of this means," said Jason Levitis, a senior fellow in the health policy division at the Urban Institute.

The data released Friday shows that by day 29 of the window for Americans to shop for Affordable Care Act plans this year, nearly 5.8 million people had picked one. That's nearly 400,000 more enrollments than by day 30 of the open enrollment period last year. Meanwhile, this year's enrollment numbers are about 1.5 million lower than the 7.3 million or so people who had signed up 32 days into the open enrollment period two years ago, showing there is some fluctuation year to year in when people sign up for coverage.

In most states, for Americans who want coverage to start Jan. 1, the window to shop for Affordable Care Act coverage began Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 15. People who want their coverage to start later can continue to select plans through Jan. 15.

Five years ago, about 12 million people selected an Affordable Care Act plan.



As Congress faces a year-end deadline on Affordable Care Act subsidies, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., left, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., meet with reporters about health care affordability, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025. Associated Press

Enhanced tax credits were introduced the following year and four years later enrollment had doubled to over 24 million. Today, millions of people benefit from the enhanced subsidies and if they expire as expected in the new year, the average person who receives a subsidy will see their annual premiums more than double, according to health care research nonprofit KFF.

The tax credits have been at the heart of fierce discussions in Congress in recent weeks, with Democrats insisting that they be extended to help Americans with rising health costs. The Senate is expected to vote this week on a Democratic proposal to extend the subsidies without major changes. But Republicans in charge have already rejected that proposal, and hopes for any extension are diminishing with many Republicans opposed.

Experts said there are various potential explanations for this year's enrollment numbers tracking higher so far, including that Affordable Care Act health insurance has been prominent in the news as Congress debates a solution to the expiring subsidies.

Another factor is that older, sicker people tend to choose their health plans

earlier in the enrollment period because they know they will purchase coverage regardless of the cost. Americans on the fence about canceling, meanwhile, could be considering their options or waiting to see whether Congress comes to a last-minute extension of the expiring subsidies.

Levitis of the Urban Institute noted that people may be swapping higher-tier plans for less expensive ones that have pricier deductibles and only later canceling, which could be causing a delay in the impact of the expiring subsidies on enrollment. "All of this stuff takes a while to diffuse through the system," he said. □

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In this photo provided by Bill Stengel Photography, is the Ghost Ranch landscape on June 24, 2025, near Abiquiu, N.M.

Associated Press

Georgia O'Keeffe's views of the New Mexico desert will be preserved with conservation plan

By **MORGAN LEE**
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A new conservation agreement will preserve land with breathtaking desert vistas that inspired the work of 20th century painter Georgia O'Keeffe and ensure visitors access to an adjacent educational retreat, several partners to the pact announced Tuesday.

Initial phases of the plan establish a conservation easement across about 10 square miles (26 square kilometers) of land, owned by a charitable arm of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), on the outskirts of the village of Abiquiu.

That easement stretches across reservoir waterfront and native grasslands to the doorstep of a remote home owned by O'Keeffe's estate, a few miles from her larger home and studio in Abiquiu. Both homes are outside the conservation area and owned and managed separately

by the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe.

The view from the range-land should be familiar to even casual O'Keeffe aficionados including desert washes, sandstone bluffs and the distant mountain silhouette of Cerro Pederal. "The stark colorful geology, the verdant grasslands going right down to the Chama River and Abiquiu lake all that just makes it such a multifaceted place with tremendous conservation value," said Jonathan Hayden, executive director of the New Mexico Land Conservancy that helped broker the conservation plan and will oversee easements. Hayden said the voluntary plan guards against the potential encroachment of modern development that might subdivide and transform the property, though there are not any imminent proposals.

Land within an initial easement has been the backdrop to movie sets for de-

cades, including a recreation of wartime Los Alamos in the hit 2024 film "Oppenheimer," on a temporary movie set that still stands.

The conservation agreement guarantees some continued access for film productions, as well as preserving traditional winter grazing for farmers who usher small herds down from the mountains as snow arrives.

The state of New Mexico is substantially underwriting the initiative though a trust created by state lawmakers in 2023.

An approved \$920,000 state award is being set aside for easement surveys, transaction costs and a financial nest-egg that the Presbyterian Church Foundation will use while retaining property ownership to support programming at the adjacent Ghost Ranch Education & Retreat Center and its use of the conservation area. □

Illinois law protects immigrants from arrest near courthouses, hospitals or colleges



Federal immigration enforcement agents keep watch as they detain a man who took off running as they were walking on North Clark Street near West Superior Street in the River North neighborhood, Sept. 28, 2025, in Chicago.

Associated Press

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Immigrants living in Illinois, among the states hit hardest by the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, are now shielded from federal enforcement near courthouses, hospitals, university campuses and day cares under a law Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker signed Tuesday.

The law, which takes effect immediately, also provides legal steps for people whose constitutional rights were violated during the federal enforcement action in the Chicago area, including \$10,000 in damages for someone unlawfully arrested while attempting to attend a court proceeding. "Dropping your kid off at day care, going to the doctor, or attending your classes should not be a life-altering task," Pritzker said at a bill-signing in the largely Latino Little Village neighborhood in Chicago. "Illinois in the face of cruelty and intimidation has chosen solidarity and support."

Critics complain the law will be overturned by the courts. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's "Operation Midway Blitz," which appears to have wound down, arrested more than 4,000 people. Data on those arrested from early September through mid-October showed only 15% had criminal records, with traffic offenses, misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies comprising the vast majority. Legislators did not return to session until October and approved the measure late in the month, sending it to Pritzker, whose staff reviewed it in the intervening weeks. Federal agents are now prohibited from making civil arrests in or around courthouses of a person attending certain legal proceedings, and the law provides for \$10,000 in fines for the arrest of someone the officer should have known was attending a court hearing. □

Lithuania declares national emergency over security risks posed by balloons from Belarus

By LIUDAS DAPKUS

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) —

Lithuania's government on Tuesday declared a national emergency over security risks posed by meteorological balloons sent from Russia-allied Belarus that have violated its airspace in recent weeks, while the Belarusian leader called for negotiations on border tensions and said his country "does not need war."

The balloons forced Lithuania to repeatedly shut down its main airport, stranding thousands of people, as Europe remains on alert over previous intrusions into NATO airspace during the war in Ukraine.

"In combating the Belarusian hybrid attack, we must take the strictest measures and defend the areas most affected by this attack," Prime Minister Inga Ruginienė said.

The announcement followed a Cabinet meeting of the Baltic state, which is a NATO member and strong backer of Ukraine in its fight against Russian forces who launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022.



In this undated photo released by the State Border Guard Service, an officer inspects a balloon used to carry cigarettes into Lithuania, because Belarussian smugglers often use them to ferry the contraband into the European Union

(State Border Guard Service via Associated Press)

The national emergency means the army will be able to patrol the border area together with other uniformed services and receive extra rights from parliament, such as to conduct searches or detain people. The government said the impact on civilians would be limited.

While the balloons are used to smuggle cigarettes into Lithuania, officials in Vilnius see their numbers and trajectories as deliberate acts of disruption orchestrated by Belarus.

According to the Lithuanian government, the Vilnius international airport has been closed for more than

60 hours since October due to the threat posed to civil aviation, affecting over 350 flights and approximately 51,000 passengers.

Interior Minister Vladislav Kondratovič said Lithuanian prosecutors launched an investigation into the balloons and the secret services would provide infor-

mation about the connection with the Minsk regime. "I have no information that the Belarusian side is trying to curb the senders of the balloons," the minister said. "And this is one of the proofs that this is a hybrid attack."

In October, Lithuanian authorities closed two border crossings in response to the airspace violations.

Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko denounced Lithuania's move to close the border as a "mad scam" and part of a "hybrid war" against his country. He suggested that Vilnius needs to combat smuggling of contraband.

Belarus wants talks

On Tuesday, Lukashenko denied accusations that Minsk was carrying out hybrid attacks on Lithuania and said the balloons could not harm civil aviation. Instead, the Belarusian leader accused Vilnius of "politicizing" the problem. He called for negotiations between Minsk and Vilnius. "If you want normal relations, sit down at the table and discuss these issues. □

Planned appearance by Venezuelan opposition leader called off on eve of Nobel Peace ceremony

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A planned news conference on Tuesday by Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner María Corina Machado

was canceled after a several-hour delay, a day before the award ceremony in Oslo.

Machado, who last appeared in public 11 months

ago, had been due to hold a traditional news conference by the laureate the day before the formal award ceremony. But the lunchtime event was delayed without explanation, until the Norwegian Nobel Institute said three hours after the scheduled time that "it will not take place today."

"María Corina Machado has herself stated in interviews how challenging the journey to Oslo, Norway, will be," the institute said in an email. "We therefore cannot at this point provide any further information about when and how she will arrive for the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony."

The institute did not specify whether the news conference would take place at a later point.

Machado's spokesperson did not immediately respond to questions about the opposition leader's location and planned attendance at Wednesday's ceremony.

The 58-year-old's win for her struggle to achieve a democratic transition in her South American nation was announced on Oct. 10, and she was described as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

Machado won the opposition's primary election and intended to run against President Nicolás Maduro in last year's presidential election, but the government barred her from running for office. Retired diplomat Edmundo González took her place.

The lead-up to the July 28, 2024, election saw widespread repression, including disqualifications, arrests and human rights violations. That increased after the country's National Electoral Council, which is stacked with Maduro loyalists, declared the incumbent the winner despite credible evidence to the contrary.

González sought asylum in Spain last year after a Venezuelan court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Meanwhile, Machado went into hiding and has not been seen in public since Jan. 9, when she was briefly detained after joining supporters in a protest in Caracas, Venezuela's capital. The following day, Maduro was sworn in for a third six-year term. □



Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado greets supporters during a protest against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro the day before his inauguration for a third term in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Dozens killed in Haiti's capital as armed men break away from gang coalition in bid for power

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Dozens of people in Haiti's capital have been killed in a clash between a powerful gang coalition and a group of armed men that apparently broke away from it, with 10 children among the victims, a local human rights group said Tuesday.

Among those killed was Dèdè, one of the highest ranking gang members that operates in the Bel-Air slum of Port-au-Prince. He was beheaded, while powerful gang leader Kempes Sanon, a former police officer, was injured, according to the Committee for Peace and Development. It wasn't immediately clear how seriously Sanon was injured, although many worry the attack that began in recent days will unleash even more violence in a city already 90% controlled by gangs.

Sanon has been dethroned while receiving treatment for his injuries by two men who go by the names of Jamesly and Ti Gason, according to the human rights



A man runs for cover as he crosses a barricaded street in the gang-controlled Bel Air neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sept. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

group.

The ongoing attack is unusual because a large number of gangs banded together in September 2023 and announced the formation of Viv Ansanm, or "Live Together," a coalition that led to a drop in violence since armed groups agreed to no longer fight

each other.

Before the attack, Sanon and his gang were part of the Viv Ansanm coalition, which the U.S. has designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

So far, the human rights group has counted at least 49 people killed, burned and mutilated since Mon-

day. Among those are 19 gang members, 10 children recruited by gangs and a man in his 60s who was struck by a stray bullet.

Nineteen women whose partners were gang members also were executed by the Krache Dife gang as they sought medical attention for the men at a clinic,

the group said.

Krache Dife, which means "Spit Fire," is believed to still be an ally of Sanon and a member of the Viv Ansanm gang coalition.

The number of people killed is expected to rise since the attack is ongoing and no authorities or human rights groups have been able to access the area.

In a recent report, the United Nations noted that Sanon, the injured gang leader, "has played a significant role in consolidating gang power in Port-au-Prince, particularly through his involvement in the Viv Ansanm alliance, which has launched coordinated attacks to expand gang-controlled territories."

"Sanon also maintains a network of individuals within governmental institutions, including security agencies, which enables him to evade arrest and facilitate his criminal activities," the U.N. report stated. Hundreds of civilians are sheltering in place as the attack continues, with concern growing about their ability to obtain food and other basic goods. □

U.N. agency reports rise in violence against women journalists and activists linked to online abuse

By **JAMEY KEATEN**

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — UN Women and partners published a study Tuesday that found more than two-thirds of women journalists, rights defenders and activists have reported violence online, with over 40% saying they have faced real-world attacks linked to digital abuse.

The report entitled "Tipping Point" focuses on an escalation in violence targeting such women alongside the rise of social media and artificial intelligence, and draws on input from more than 6,900 human rights defenders, journalists and activists in 119 countries.

The study by UN Women, the United Nations agency that promotes women's rights, gender equality and

empowerment of women and girls, follows a similar report by the U.N. cultural and educational agency UNESCO in 2021 that highlighted the issue.

"Online violence against women has become a growing global crisis," UN

Women said. "What begins on a screen can quickly fuel harassment, intimidation, and even real-world harm."

Some 41% of respondents said they experienced offline attacks, abuse or harassment that they linked

with online violence in the forms of physical or sexual assault, stalking, verbal harassment and "swatting," a tactic to get authorities to respond to an address by making bogus claims of violence happening inside. Women writers, influencers and social media content providers who focus on human rights are most often affected of such online violence, through the use of new tools like deepfake images or manipulated content, according to the study compiled with partners like the European Commission.

Lead researcher Julie Posetti, speaking Tuesday to reporters in Geneva, said the tally of cases of real-world harm linked to online violence against women journalists has more than

doubled over the past five years, with 42% of respondents in 2025 identifying "this dangerous and potentially deadly trajectory." Posetti also expressed concerns about "digital misogyny" and the "manosphere" promoted by some high-profile online influencers, and personal attacks against some women journalists by government leaders including by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"This is part of what I refer to as a continuum of violence against women, or the enabling of violence against women in public life," she said. "When a president or a prime minister or some senior official makes such egregious comments, it tends to stir up the mob online." □



The symbol of the United Nations is displayed outside the Secretariat Building, Feb. 28, 2022, at United Nations Headquarters.

Associated Press

Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing.



However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and

beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and

is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)–If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving



phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area include the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually hap-

pened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet,

the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: "Aruba: Short History"
by Dr. J. Hartog.



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PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a “lora”



(Oranjestad)— The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to

explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please
Please refrain from interfering with the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have

gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away
Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to at-



tacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water
You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are do-

ing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!
The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let’s work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild.☐



Aruba to me: The Villaris

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn’t that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for pro-

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For today we received a lovely message from Carmela & Joseph Villari. They wrote to us saying: “We are back at our favorite island and coming for the past 21 years. What’s a better way to get away from the cold weather and come to Aruba for some fun in the sun for the holidays!” Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!☐

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Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule



of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other round-

abouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right

and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport round-

about. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCXXXIII 333

Taste of Heritage: An Aruban Treasure

Etnia Nativa celebrates the island's native ethnicity—linking our ancestral roots to survival knowledge, herbal wisdom, practical know-how, the ability to navigate by reading the stars, and the skill to predict the weather. These are the ways of our elders, passed down from their elders through unfathomable generations. Aruba's identity is deeply rooted in this ancestral heritage..

In this new episode Etnia Nativa introduces you to a delicious fruit of coastal origins, from where an exquisite beverage was prepared of, a wine of heritage.

Along the wind-kissed coasts of Aruba, where the sea breathes life into every grain of sand, there once stood generous groves of Druf di Lama—known in English as the Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*). This remarkable tree, long treasured by native Arubans, offered more than just fruit: it provided sustenance, shade, resilience, and a presence deeply intertwined with island life. (See Episode 252 of Island Insight for a full exploration of its characteristics and uses.)

Today, these trees are far less abundant, reduced to scattered survivors along beaches where they once thrived in great numbers. Yet those who know their worth continue to honor the Sea Grape as a symbol of heritage—one that still inspires artisanal traditions such as our homemade wine.

The Sea Grape, a proud member of the Polygonaceae family, flourishes naturally along the shores of the Caribbean. Its strength against fierce coastal winds and salty air makes it a natural guardian of beaches. In return, it offers wide, cooling leaves that cast generous shade and clusters of fruits that vary from pale green to deep violet-red. Despite its rugged nature, these trees grow quickly with irrigation, rewarding patience with abundant fruit when properly cared for.

Sea Grape fruits are small—only up to 2 cm—and they ripen unevenly, meaning each one must be picked by hand with care. Peel back their thin, opaque skin and you'll reveal a jewel-like pulp: glassy, sweet-and-sour, and ranging in color from reddish-purple to translucent greenish-white. Nearly every fruit contains a large, woody seed up to 1.5 cm, leaving only a thin layer of pulp to work with. But this hasn't stopped Caribbean communities from transforming these modest fruits into compotes, jams, jellies, juices—and most poetically, wine.

Sea grape wine celebrates creativity and tradition, meticulously handcrafted with warmth, patience, and the unmistakable artistry of Etnia Nativa for the enjoyment of family.

Each year in early October, we begin by collecting grapes that grow in the wild, rinsing them thoroughly, and checking them for ripeness. We then mix the green and purple grapes. Once clean, we gently boil them for 10 to 15 minutes to soften the fruit and release their juice. While still warm, we crush the grapes and carefully remove the seeds and skins. The juice is then mixed with water and sugar, stirring until the sugar fully dissolves.

When the mixture becomes lukewarm, we add the yeast, cover it, and let it rest in a warm place for 24 hours. The next day, we transfer it to a sterilized jar and allow it to ferment for 3 to 5 days, adjusting the sweetness if needed. We strain the juice once more and pour it into clean bottles, storing them in a cool, dark place for at least two months to develop optimal flavor.

Our simple, ancient method echoes the resourcefulness of generations who used what nature provided—never wastefully and always with intention. Time becomes the final ingredient: the wine matures until it reaches its mellow, sun-kissed character.

Craftsman Sea Grape wine is more than a drink—this is not industrial winemaking. This is heritage. It is a preservation of memory, a revival of a native fruit once central to island life, and a toast to the creativity of Aruban traditions. Each sip carries the story of Aruba's coastline, the resilience of its trees, and the hands that continue to keep ancient practices alive. □



Just look at those happy faces enjoying that sea grape wine.

If you've enjoyed discovering our ancestral stories and wish to delve deeper into the true Aruba, we invite you to experience Etnia Nativa—the only "living museum" of its kind, celebrating the island's rich mestizo heritage (cultural blending). Visits are by appointment only: Contact us by WhatsApp+297 592 2702 or mail etnianaativa03@gmail.com for details.

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

ORANJESTAD—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go

fetch Kudawechea, who was a epis-temophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted no time and went to go fetch Kudawechea. Upon telling Kudawechea that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawechea was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawechea, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with



enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers.

Kudawechea, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut. Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's

fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our

ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain

that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general pub-



lic. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are

taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 38 Principle

1 Richard of "Chicago" 39 Circus structures

5 Cavalry base 40 Hot, in a way

9 Insipid 41 Mine rocks

10 Shaq of the NBA

12 Spoken tests

13 Temple leader

14 Roof features

16 Chicken — king

17 Hideous 18 Sway

21 Catch sight of

22 Kayaks' cousins

23 Moscow money

24 Rather

26 Viet-nameese New Year

29 Singer King

30 Surrounding glow

31 Epitome of easiness

32 Dark-furred martens

34 Bed boards

37 Between-meals nosh

DOWN

1 Mechanic's place

2 Facilitate

3 Political meeting

4 Different

5 In favor of

6 Stop — dime

7 Money-back offer

8 Café fixtures

9 Fake

11 Teller of tales

15 Horse houses

19 Just

20 Foot part

22 Area under a wave

23 Carnival city

24 Aesop's output

25 Secret

26 New Orleans university

27 Builds

28 Chores

29 Group of actors

30 Dogpatch boy

33 Regarding

35 Cowboy nickname

36 Pig's place

I	B	I	S			O	P	A	L	S
S	O	N	I	C			M	O	V	I
L	O	T	T	O			A	W	A	K
E	M	O		L	E	N		T	E	D
T	E	N	D	O	N			P	A	L
	D	E	A	R	D	I	A	R		
			L	E	E	R				
	D	E	E	R		M	O	U	S	E
S	A	N	S			I	N	P	A	R
E	R	R		N	C	O		L	E	O
C	R	A	Z	E			U	T	I	C
T	O	G	A	S		T	I	N	T	S
S	W	E	E	P	T			P	E	S

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-18 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

J H G P U I R W Z W Y P F Z W X U A H G Z

Z Q W M G Z G L W . Z Q W V U N Z S H I ' Z

D F I X . — Q F O O U L J X W V F U I H
Cryptoquote: FAMILY IS NOT AN
IMPORTANT THING. IT'S EVERYTHING. —
MICHAEL J. FOX

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 08 - 11 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	08	MS RENAISSANCE	08.00	18.00	B	1
		VALIANT LADY	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN STAR	11.00	20.00	I	1
WED	10	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	11.30	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	11	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



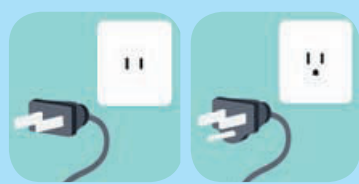
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	9				6	8		
8			7					4
		7					2	9
				4				
		6		2	8	1	3	
7				1	5	2		
	7				3	6	5	
		2		7	1	4		3

Difficulty: ★★★

12/10

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	1	8	3	5	6	7	9
5	3	7	6	4	9	2	8	1
6	9	8	2	1	7	5	4	3
7	6	9	5	8	3	4	1	2
4	8	5	1	7	2	3	9	6
1	2	3	4	9	6	7	5	8
8	1	6	7	2	4	9	3	5
3	7	2	9	5	1	8	6	4
9	5	4	3	6	8	1	2	7

Difficulty: ★★

12/9



Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Molly McNearney pose at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment Gala on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2024, at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.
Associated Press

ABC signs Jimmy Kimmel to a one-year contract extension, months after temporary suspension

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

President Donald Trump won't be getting his wish. ABC said Monday it has signed late-night comic Jimmy Kimmel to a one-year contract extension.

Kimmel's previous, multiyear contract had been set to expire next May, so the extension will keep him on the air until at least May 2027.

Kimmel's future looked questionable in September, when ABC suspended "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" for remarks made following the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Following a public outcry, ABC lifted the suspension, and Kimmel returned to the air with much stronger ratings than he had before.

He continued his relentless joking at the president's expense, leading Trump to urge the network to "get the bum off the air" in a social media post last month. The post followed Kimmel's nearly 10-minute monologue on Trump and the Jeffrey Epstein files.

Kimmel was even on Trump's mind Sunday as the president hosted the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington. "I've watched some of the people that host," Trump said. "I've watched some of the people that host."

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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Central: Tel.585 1965

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Aloe:Tel.584 4606

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

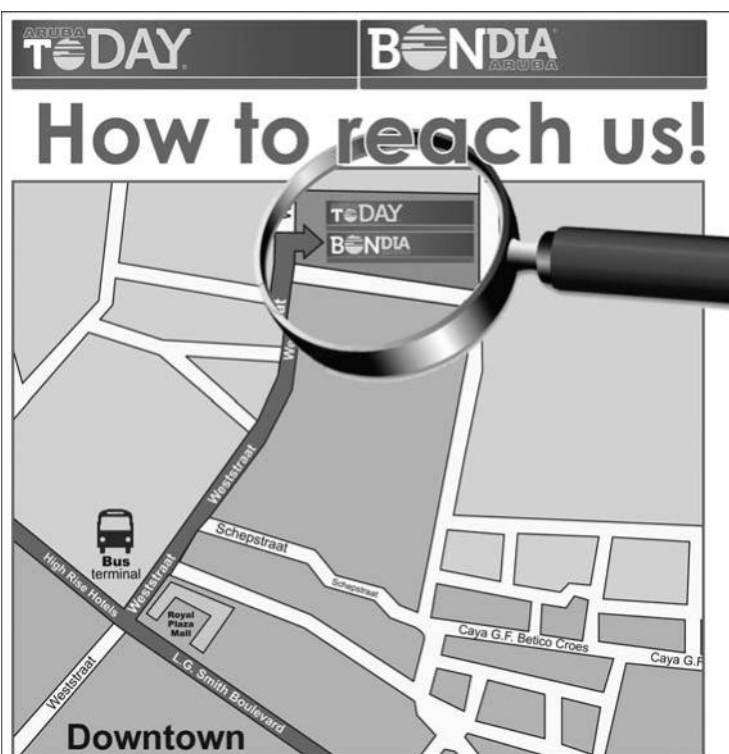
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



The holiday shopping season comes with tons of extra emissions. Here's how to do it sustainably

By **CALEIGH WELLS**
Associated Press

We're in the thick of the holiday shopping season, and U.S. residents are expected to shatter the spending record again this year. The National Retail Federation forecasts that 2025 will be the first time we collectively spend more than \$1 trillion on year-end gifts.

A lot of materials, energy, packaging and gasoline have gone into making and moving those gifts. All of those processes release planet-warming gases into the atmosphere.

But a lot of that environmental impact is avoidable. Making, baking, thrifting and avoiding traditional wrapping paper are all more planet-friendly ways to give. We've got tips on how to do them all. Homemade doesn't have to be difficult.

Sure, if you've got the skill to turn a wooden bowl or



A young visitor describes to Santa Claus what he hopes to get for Christmas at Altamonte Mall on Dec. 21, 2022, in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

needlepoint a Christmas stocking, those gifts are guaranteed to be unique and meaningful. But not all of us have the knowledge or time.

Sandra Goldmark, associate dean of Columbia Climate School's Office of Engagement and Impact, said one of her favorite options is an act of service for a loved one. One year, for example, her husband organized all her passwords for her.

"It was not something easy to wrap and put under the tree, but believe me, it was meaningful and really helped me more than any

additional object cluttering up my home could have," she said.

Another winner: food. If, say, you have a long list of recipients, buy ingredients in bulk and pack them in Mason jars. Cookie mix, soup mix, sourdough starter and spice mixes are all easily sealed and transported that way.

Add some ribbon and a sprig of cedar, and it's festive. Homemade baked goods and snacks are other options.

"It's inexpensive, but it takes care and time and attention," said sustainable living educator Sarah Robertson-

Barnes.

Give experiences instead of buying more stuff

The advice here starts out simple: Buy less stuff. The best way to give gifts more sustainably is to buy fewer new things, said Goldmark. Stockings can be a common spot for toys that break quickly before going straight to the landfill. Instead, you can fill stockings with things that your friends or family need anyway, like toothbrushes or body wash, or traditional treats like fruit and chocolates.

Giving someone an experience is another popular option. That might mean

a pair of concert tickets, a spa day, a gift card to a favorite local restaurant, a local news subscription or a membership to a local garden or zoo that the recipient can use over and over. Research has indicated that experiences strengthen relationships better than material gifts do.

"There is so much that you could do by just saying, 'I would prefer if you just made me a nice meal or took me out for some sort of adventure,'" said Atar Herziger, environmental psychologist and assistant professor at Technion — Israel Institute of Technology. Experiences also come with less packaging. Herziger cautions, though, that travel can have a high impact especially if it involves planes. So she recommends local options like a nearby hike or a staycation.

And if you're unsure what experience your loved one would prefer? Herziger said don't overcomplicate it just ask.

Go vintage

Secondhand gifts are easier on the planet because they involve less manufacturing, packaging and shipping. Robertson-Barnes looks to Facebook Marketplace or her local Buy Nothing group to find items that she would have otherwise bought new. □



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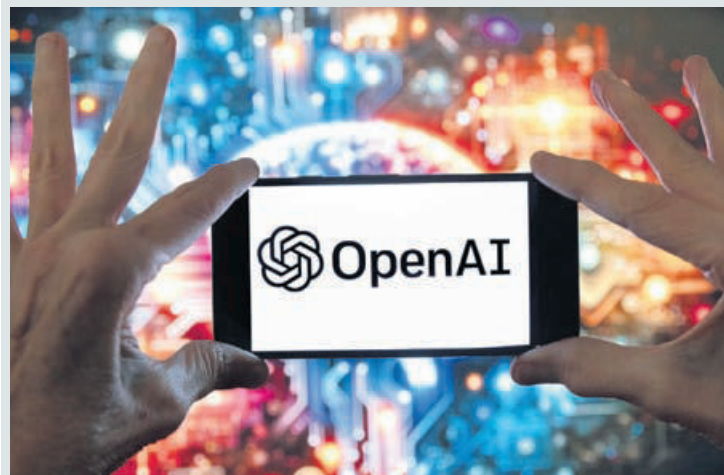
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OpenAI names Slack CEO Dresser as first chief of revenue as ChatGPT maker aims to make a profit



The OpenAI logo is seen displayed on a cell phone in front of an image on a computer screen generated by ChatGPT's Dall-E text-to-image model, Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — OpenAI said Tuesday it has picked Slack CEO Denise Dresser as its first chief of revenue, a message to wary investors that the ChatGPT maker is serious about making a profit from its artificial intelligence technology.

OpenAI said Dresser will oversee global revenue strategy and "will help more businesses put AI to work in their day-to-day operations."

Dresser had already spent more than a decade at Salesforce when the software pioneer announced in 2020 it was buying work-chatting service Slack for \$27.7 billion. She helped integrate Slack into the software company before Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff picked her as CEO in 2023.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman earlier this month set off a "code red" alert in an internal email to employees to improve its flagship product, ChatGPT, and delay other product developments. □

Schwarber going back to Philadelphia on a \$150 million, five-year contract, AP source says

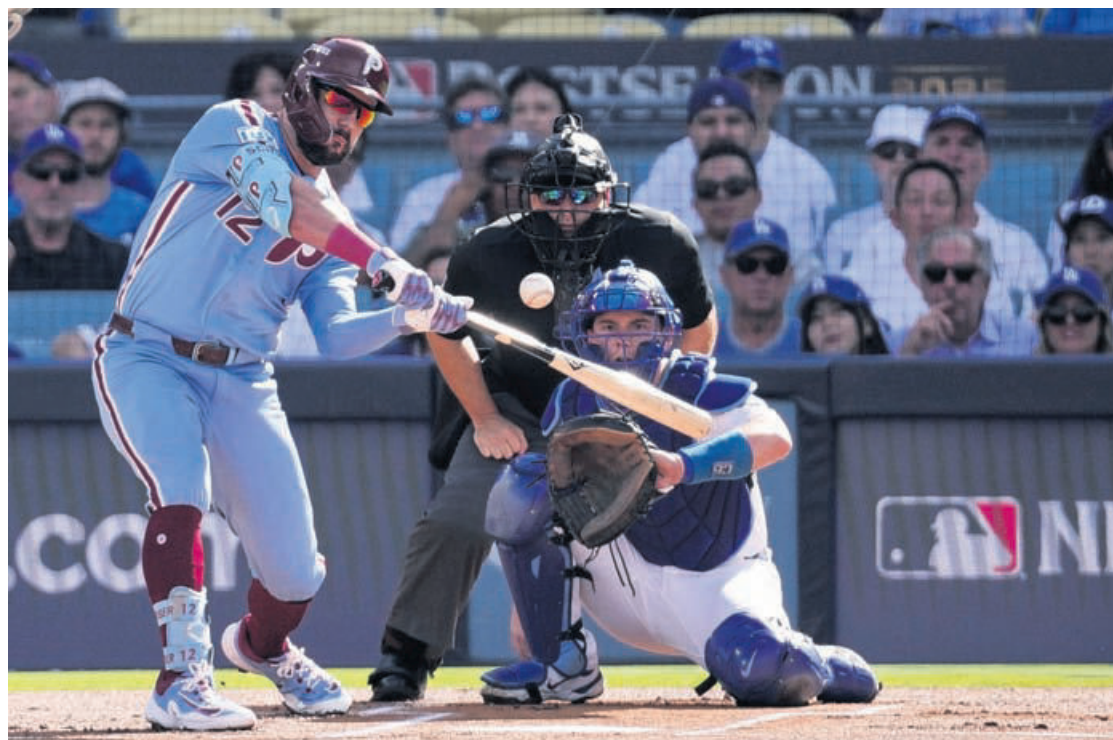
By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Kyle Schwarber is going back to Philadelphia, agreeing to a \$150 million, five-year contract with the Phillies, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced. ESPN was the first to report on the move.

Schwarber had been one of the biggest names in free agency. His new contract with Philadelphia could lead to more activity at baseball's winter meetings as his other suitors execute their alternative plans.

Schwarber is coming off a terrific season with the Phillies, setting career highs with an NL-best 56 homers and a major league-high 132 RBIs. He also scored a career-high 111 runs while leading the club to its second straight NL East title. Schwarber's 23 homers against left-handed pitching set a major league record for a lefty batter, passing Stan Musial (1949) and



Philadelphia Phillies' Kyle Schwarber connects for a double during the first inning in Game 4 of baseball's National League Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Oct. 9, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Matt Olson (2021) at 22. While cautiously declaring that the deal isn't done yet, Phillies manager Rob Thomson praised Schwarber's talent and clubhouse leadership. He also expressed confidence in his ability to keep producing at the plate. "The body's gotten better

over time," Thomson said. "He's in the best shape of his life right now, and I don't think that that's going to change. He's so intelligent. He sees the game a little bit different than a lot of other guys, and he works at it, watches a lot of film. "I think there's a really good chance that he's going to

maintain this level. I mean, this was an unbelievable year for him. So I don't think we can expect this every year, but I still think he's going to be a high-level performer." Schwarber won this year's All-Star Game for the NL by swatting three homers in a tiebreaking swing-off, and

he finished second in the NL MVP race behind Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani.

"Good for him, man. He earned it," said Boston manager Alex Cora, who had Schwarber on the Red Sox in 2021.

The 32-year-old Schwarber rejected a \$22,025,000 qualifying offer from Philadelphia in November.

Schwarber grew up in southwest Ohio before playing his college ball at Indiana. He was selected by the Chicago Cubs with the No. 4 pick in the 2014 amateur draft.

He was at the beginning of his second year with Chicago in 2016 when he tore two ligaments in his left knee in an outfield collision during an April game in Arizona. It was believed to be a season-ending injury, but he returned for Game 1 of the World Series and helped the Cubs to the franchise's first championship since 1908.

Schwarber is a .234 hitter with 23 homers and 37 RBIs in 73 career playoff games. He went deep twice in the NL Division Series this year against the Dodgers. □

Soccer peace prize for Trump triggers complaints about Infantino to FIFA ethics investigators

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — FIFA president Gianni Infantino's public support for Donald Trump and a peace prize awarded to the U.S. president are the subjects of formal complaints to the global soccer body's ethics investigators.

FairSquare, a London-based human rights non-profit, said Tuesday it filed requests for investigations into Infantino's alleged breaches of FIFA's statutory duty to be politically neutral. FIFA said its ethics committee does not comment on potential ongoing cases, and could not confirm receiving the complaint.

FIFA's ethics code calls for a ban from soccer of up to two years for violating the duty of neutrality, though it

is unclear if the case will be taken up. The FIFA-appointed current ethics investigators and judges are seen by some observers to operate with less independence than their predecessors a decade ago when then-president Sepp Blatter was removed from office. Infantino has expressed views this year backing Trump and his policies, including suggesting the U.S. president deserved to get the Nobel Peace Prize which he did not win.

The FIFA leader also has closely aligned soccer with the United States government ahead of the men's 2026 World Cup being co-hosted with Canada and Mexico. The tournament should earn more than \$10 billion for FIFA. Political leaders of all three co-hosts

joined Infantino on stage to begin the World Cup tournament draw last Friday in Washington, D.C., after Trump got the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize.

"The award of a prize of this nature to a sitting political leader is in and of itself a clear breach of FIFA's duty of neutrality," FairSquare said in an eight-page complaint. FIFA has not specified how Infantino created the peace prize last month though people familiar with the process in private conversations said they learned about it through media reports.

"If Mr. Infantino acted unilaterally and without any statutory authority this should be considered an egregious abuse of power," FairSquare said.

FairSquare has previously

challenged FIFA over the human rights record of Saudi Arabia, the 2034 World Cup host; the influence of the kingdom's oil company Aramco which is a highest-tier World Cup sponsor; FIFA

governance standards; and FIFA's slow-moving investigation into possible statutes breaches relating to teams from Israeli settlements playing in the national soccer league. □



President Donald Trump is presented with the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize by FIFA President Gianni Infantino during the 2026 FIFA World Cup draw at the Kennedy Center, Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press



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Bears can go from first to out of the playoffs with a tough schedule and inconsistent QB play

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

The Chicago Bears went from first in the NFC to seventh with one loss.

Could the Bears miss the playoffs entirely?

That's a possibility given their tough schedule down the stretch and the inconsistency of quarterback Caleb Williams.

At 9-4, the Bears are tied with the San Francisco 49ers and are one game ahead of the Detroit Lions (8-5). They're just behind Green Bay (9-3-1) in the NFC North following a 28-21 loss to the Packers on Sunday.

Williams, who has led Chicago to five fourth-quarter comebacks this season, had an opportunity for more heroics after driving the offense to the Packers 14 in the final minute. But he underthrew a wide-open Cole Kmet and was intercepted in the end zone by Keisean Nixon with 22 seconds remaining.

Williams has the lowest completion percentage (57.8) among quarterbacks who have thrown at least 200 passes.

"There's certainly some that you can talk about each week where guys are open and we can certainly give him the ball on time and give him a chance to run after catch and all that," coach Ben Johnson said. "Then, there's that mix of, 'Oh my gosh, that's one of the most incredible plays I've ever seen in my life' type deal with him. ... That's something we're striving to do, is combine both of those worlds to where we think we're going to have a really good quarterback in this league, a really dangerous quarterback in this league, really dangerous offense, really good team



Chicago Bears quarterback Caleb Williams (18) throws a pass for a touchdown against Green Bay Packers defensive end Micah Parsons, right, during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

for a long time when we're really able to combine both of those thought processes. So, we're not quite there yet. We're working diligently every day."

The Bears host the struggling Cleveland Browns (3-10) this week before finishing with a three-game stretch that will determine whether they win the division, earn a wild-card spot or miss the playoffs.

A rematch with the Packers at Soldier Field on Dec. 20 could be a chance to reclaim the division lead. The Bears then visit the 49ers in Week 17 and close at home against the Lions on Jan. 4.

If they lose to Green Bay or San Francisco or even split, there's a possibility the matchup against Detroit could be for the final playoff spot. The Lions won the first meeting so they currently have a tiebreaker advantage.

Tough Texans

In a wide-open AFC, the Houston Texans have a stingy defense that's dominant enough to lead them to the Super Bowl.

The Texans (8-5) have overcome an 0-3 start to climb into the playoff race. The two-time defending AFC South champions trail the Jaguars (9-4) by one game. They host the Cardinals (3-10) and Raiders (2-11) the next two weeks and finish with difficult games at the Chargers and home vs. the Colts.

Led by Will Anderson Jr., Danielle Hunter, Derek Stingley Jr. and Jalen Pitre, the Texans have allowed the fewest yards (266.3) and points (16.0) per game in the NFL. They held Patrick Mahomes to 14 of 33 for 160 yards and three interceptions in a 20-10 victory that damaged Kansas City's playoff hopes.

"The main thing for me is I'm

laser-focused on what's in front and that's how I want to keep our guys," Texans coach DeMeco Ryans said. "The main thing is having your eyes in front. Looking back on how we started, it's easy to look back and see like, 'Oh, such a bad start.' Your eyes are in front. Your eyes are focusing on the next opponent, the next target, as I said, and it's all about continuing to execute and finish. If you continue to focus on those things which you can control, not really worried about what others are saying, what's the expectation for this game and that game.

All that stuff, it doesn't matter. For us, it's eyes in front, focus on your target and execute."

Despite so-so stats, C.J. Stroud did plenty of positive things to lead the offense against Steve Spagnuolo's stout defense. Stroud deliv-

ered several big throws on third-and-long, extending plays with his legs before delivering passes.

"There were some critical third downs there, I think, with C.J. being able to step up in the pocket and make some plays on some of those third downs," Ryans said.

Jalen's picks

Jalen Hurts had thrown just three interceptions in 692 pass attempts over his previous 28 games before getting picked four times by the Los Angeles Chargers in Philadelphia's 22-19 overtime loss on Monday night. Hurts also fumbled after recovering a fumble on a return of one of his interceptions.

The defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (8-5) have lost three in a row and, while they still lead the NFC East over Dallas (6-6-1), Philadelphia is reeling. A poor passing offense is a big reason why the team is struggling.

The Eagles were ranked 29th in passing last season but were led by Saquon Barkley and the league's No. 1 rushing offense. Barkley isn't finding the same running lanes this season though he broke loose for a 52-yard TD run against the Chargers and Hurts and the rest of the offense haven't picked up the slack.□

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